From: Palmer, Maureen
To: Reitz, Nick
Cc: Ribley, Warren
Subject: RE: IKE-BAP-Tax Clearances Processing-- Time Delays
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:48:38 PM
Importance: High

Hello Nick,

Per my mention to the Director of a concern relating to the new Community Development Fund, Warren asked that I involve you in possibly reaching out to a key member of IDOR to establish a point of contact that can facilitate performing income tax clearances needed under this program with a quick turnaround. These are needed within 3-5 days

ACCION is one of two lenders funded under the IKE-BAP program, in support of the Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative. They are capable of a high volume of loan awards, targeting the type of micro-businesses envisioned by the state under this initiative. However, they are maintaining that they cannot fund loans with the IKE-BAP funding received, if the income tax clearances that our vendor has advised them are needed are not achieved with a quick turnaround at IDOR. Ie, these tax clearances are not needed under other funds that ACCION manages, and to ensure loans funds are not delayed, ACCION will resort to using other funding sources. I would think that if the person you reach out to at IDOR knows that this loan program is part of the Governor's broader Neighborhood Recovery Initiative, it would encourage them in identifying a key person or two that will expedite the necessary income tax clearances. ACCION is becoming more insistent on getting this issue addressed —their latest email is copied below. If you could please let me know. Thanks

Maureen

From: Brett Simmons [mailto:bsimmons@accionchicago.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Palmer, Maureen
Subject: RE: IKE-BAP-Tax Clearances

Maureen,

This issue remains outstanding for us and we still have not heard anything from DOR. If there is anything the director could do to help remedy this situation, it would be much appreciated. If the reality is that we will be waiting 30+ days for every tax clearance request, then we will need to reassess how we are able to disburse these loans.

Thanks,
Brett

-----Original Message-----
From: Palmer, Maureen [mailto:Maureen.Palmer@illinois.gov]
Sent: Fri 3/4/2011 5:55 PM
To: Brett Simmons; Jonathan Brereton
Cc: Visage, Tommy W.; Kent Burgess
Subject: RE: IKE-BAP-Tax Clearances

Brett, thanks for the update, we'll try to assist in getting quicker turnaround and follow-up on this next week-we definitely don't want ACCION to redirect away from the IKE-BAP funding! On another note, I had hoped to speak to your colleague Jill this week and never had the time. Please express my apologies-this is something else I hope to fit in next week.

Maureen

From: Brett Simmons [mailto:bsimmons@accionchicago.org]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 5:52 PM
To: Palmer, Maureen
Cc: Jonathan Brereton
Subject: Tax Clearances

Maureen,

Thanks for sending over the approval letter.

I have one more thing to bother you about. We are still encountering quite a bit of difficulty getting the needed tax clearance letters for our clients. In fact, I received only one, late last week, and then none this week. According to my records, we have sent 22 clearance requests.

I fear that if we cannot get this resolved soon, we may have to start redirecting applicants away from the BAP until we are able to get the reimbursement.

Jonathan and I plan to review the loans disbursed early next week and make a final decision. We would still screen people for the program; however, after underwriting we would use another source of funding, rather than the BAP. That would effectively halt the loan disbursal process, which we want to avoid if at all possible.

Please feel free to give me a call on Monday morning.

Thanks,

Brett

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